

considered synonymous, and the two former, *P. angustifolium* and *P. lineare*, published in 1826, are referred to the *P. Neesii* Kunth, described in 1829, a rather queer procedure, where the rule is that the oldest binomial shall be taken up, for certainly, if it is necessary to unite *P. angustifolium* and *P. lineare*, the former being invalidated by the earlier publication of Le Conte's name, *P. lineare* is available.

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## ONAGRA GRANDIFLORA (AIT.)\* A SPECIES TO BE INCLUDED IN THE NORTH AMERICAN FLORA

BY ANNA MURRAY VAIL

In searching through several herbaria for specimens of *Onagra Lamarckiana* that had grown wild in North America, it became apparent that there was a large-flowered evening-primrose which, though closely related to *O. Lamarckiana*, could not be referred to that plant as it is known in Europe in the wild state and in cultivation.

The reference by Bartram † to a large-flowered evening-primrose seen near Tensaw, Alabama, suggested the possibility of finding the plant still growing in the locality where he found it in August, 1776. Professor S. M. Tracy kindly undertook the search for it, and on August 16, 1904, he re-discovered the locality, and the plant, described so vividly by Bartram as "the most pompous and brilliant herbaceous plant yet known to exist."

Abundant material was sent to the New York Botanical Garden and extensive cultures of *O. grandiflora* have been begun, in an attempt to establish its relation with its allies. Further details will be included in an article now in press.

*Oenothera grandiflora* Ait. was based on a plant introduced from North America by John Fothergill in 1778. The plate

\**Onagra grandiflora* (Ait.) = *Oenothera grandiflora*, Ait. Hort. Kew. 2: 2. 1789.

† Bartram, William. Travels through North and South Carolina, Georgia, East and West Florida, the Cherokee Country, the extensive territories of the Muscogulges or Creek Confederacy, and the Country of the Chactaws. Dublin, 1793 (reprinted from the Philadelphia edition of 1791), p. 404.

cited after the description (L'Héritier, *Stirp. Novae*, 2, *pl.* 2) was never published, and repeated search for the original drawing or a copy of the unpublished plate has not been successful.

An herbarium specimen of "*Oenothera grandiflora* MSS. Ait. Hort. Kew 2: 2" from "Hort. Fothergill 1778" is preserved in the Herbarium of the British Museum, and a traced drawing of this specimen was procured for the Garden by Dr. H. H. Rusby in August, 1904. A close comparison of the herbarium specimens of the Alabama plant collected by Tracy and the tracing of the Fothergill plant show them to be identical, and the evidence is fairly conclusive that the *Oenothera grandiflora* Ait., so well and so long established in cultivation, originated from seeds sent to Fothergill by William Bartram after his famous travels through the southern United States.

The Alabama plants were shown to Professor de Vries when he passed through New York in October, 1904, and he unhesitatingly stated that they did not in the least resemble the *Oenothera Lamarckiana* of his experiments.

Just what is the relationship of *Onagra grandiflora* (Ait.) from Alabama, with other large-flowered species in general cultivation, remains to be investigated. The historical records of *Onagra grandiflora* are numerous and most complicated, but it is of undoubted interest at the present time to find the plant spoken of by Bartram still growing in the same locality observed by him more than a century and a quarter ago, and to find it still true in every way to the characters as described by him at the time, and which are now still further emphasized by the tracing of the plant grown by Fothergill in 1778.

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## SHORTER NOTES

**Carex Underwoodii** sp. nov.— Stout, glabrous; culm sharply trigonous, 1 m. high or more, roughish above. Leaves about as long as the culm, 1–2 cm. wide, slightly rough-margined: spikes clustered at the summit, the pistillate 4, linear-cylindric, 4–5 cm. long, about 8 mm. in diameter, the lowest on a slender stalk about 2 cm. long, the others sessile or nearly so: staminate